

# The Southeast News

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 12

OCTOBER 1964



## John Blaker Herod Speaks At Meetings

John Blaker Herod, Philadelphia, secretary for special appeals in the Department of Promotion of the Stewardship Council of the United Church of Christ, was the speaker at the fall meetings of the South Alabama Northwest Florida, Central Alabama and North Alabama Associations.

Before coming to this position in 1962, he served for one year as an area representative for Congregational Christian Churches in Western States and Hawaii, speaking in local churches, associations and conferences on the mission of the church.

From 1949 to 1959, Mr. Herod operated a variety store in San Francisco. He had previously been advertising manager for a chain of stores in California. Before World War II he was on the faculty of West Virginia University, from which he graduated in 1935. In 1940 he received the M. A. degree from Cornell University.

Mr. Herod was born in Rangoon, Burma, the son of Baptist missionary parents. Mr. and Mrs. Herod have four children.



## Former Missionary Here For Meetings

The Rev. Arthur F. Christofersen, a Congregational Christian missionary in South Africa for 45 years, spoke at the annual meetings of the East Alabama Association and the Georgia-South Carolina Conference.

Two months after their marriage in 1915 Mr. and Mrs. Christofersen sailed for Africa. Following a year of language study, they served for 35 years in the isolated Ifafa station in Natal, eight years at the Adams Mission near Durban, and their last 18 months in Durban.

When they returned to the United States in 1960, the Christofersens had been out of the country for 10 years. Due for retirement in 1956, no replacements were available and they stayed on for an additional four years. They are now making their home in Naperville, Illinois.

Mr. Christofersen is a graduate of Shurtleff College, Ill., and Crozer Theological Seminary. Three of their children are missionaries, one is a minister, and another daughter lives in Naperville.

## Southern Union College Is Now A State School

The Southern Union College, Wadley, Alabama, founded in 1922 by the churches of the Southern Christian Convention, is now a junior college in the public education system of the State of Alabama.

Approximately a year ago when it was learned that the State of Alabama planned to develop a system of junior colleges across the state the board of trustees of Southern Union College voted to present the campus of the institution to the state. This step was taken to make sure an educational institution at this level would continue to serve in the area.

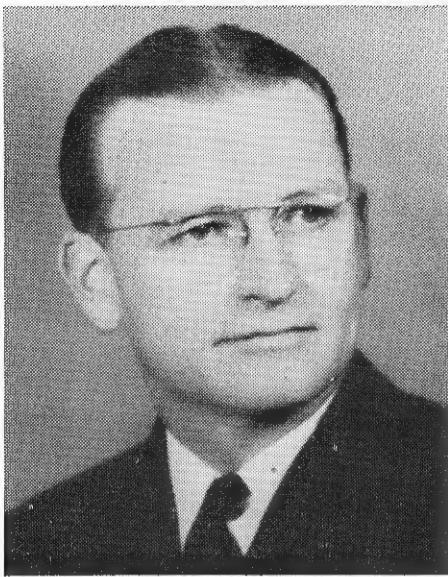
The Alabama Board of Education authorized the acceptance of the gift of this growing junior college at its annual meeting in January 1964, the exact time of taking over to be dependent on the time the Alabama Legislature made available the necessary operating funds.

Act. No. 113 passed by the special session of the legislature on August 21 was signed by Governor Wallace into law on August 28, 1964. The state actually took over the institution on October 1, 1964, the beginning of the fiscal year.

Earlier in September, President Walter A. Graham and other trustees of the college presented the deed to the campus and the buildings located on it to Governor George C. Wallace.

\$236,500 has been made available by the legislature to the institution for operating funds for the current year. In addition, \$300,000 has been allocated for constructing a physical education building.

238 students have been registered for the fall quarter. This includes the largest freshman class in the history of the college, 153. With the exception of those over 70 years of age the present faculty and staff continues to serve. Dr. Graham will continue as president.



W. MILLARD STEVENS

## Alabama Native Accepts Knoxville Church Call

The Rev. Dr. W. Millard Stevens, minister of the First Congregational Church, Southington, Connecticut, has accepted the call to serve the First Congregational Church, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Dr. and Mrs. Stevens will arrive in Knoxville the last week of October and he will begin his new duties the first Sunday in November.

Dr. and Mrs. Stevens are no strangers to the Southeast Convention. He is a native of Alabama and also served as pastor-at-large in the Southeast during 1943-1944 under the Congregational Christian Board of Home Missions.

After graduating from Elon College in 1936, Dr. Stevens attended the Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut, and received the degree of Bachelor of Divinity in 1943. He has done graduate work at Duke University.

In 1952 Elon College awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

While a student at Elon College he served Union Ridge CC Church and while at Yale Divinity School the Beacon Falls, Conn., CC Church.

From 1944 to 1949 Dr. Stevens served as pastor of the First Christian Church, Burlington, North Carolina. He then served the Congregational Christian Temple, Norfolk, Va., until 1955.

Dr. Stevens has held many elective and committee positions at the convention and national level.

## Rev. John C. Wiley To Be Pleasant Hill Interim

The Pleasant Hill, Tennessee, Community Church is very happy to have as its interim pastor the Reverend John C. Wiley, who will begin his ministry on the third Sunday in October.

The pulpit was left vacant in June when the Rev. Frank R. Snavely, who had served the church for the past five years, returned to the Methodist denomination and was assigned to the First Methodist Church of Hartsville, Tennessee.

Mr. Wiley has held many distinguished pulpits. After serving for several years in the Second Congregational Church, New London, Conn., he and Mrs. Wiley accepted an assignment to Kobe, Japan, for four years. Before leaving they shipped their furniture to Pleasant Hill, selected a lot in the retirement village, and arranged to have a home built during their absence. After enjoying the new home over a year, Mr. Wiley was called back into the pastorate. He has been occupying the pulpit of the Williamstown, Massachusetts Congregational Church for the past two years.

The Wileys made a real place for themselves during their stay in Pleasant Hill, and will receive a warm welcome on their return. Mr. Wiley has accepted the call only with the understanding that the Pastoral Committee continues its search for a permanent minister. Since many members of the church are residents of Uplands Retirement Village, there is a need of a leader who loves both old and young, and can render adequate service to both. The Snavelys left a fine, well organized group of young people, and it is hoped to find a man who will be able to work with and build this group as well as to give comfort and inspiration to those in the sunset years.

Until the Wileys arrive the community has been fortunate in having several retired ministers who are doing an excellent job in filling the pulpit. These include the Rev. James Conlin, who makes his home in the retirement village and whose wife is the church organist; and the Rev. J. Herbert Owen, of Melbourne, Florida, who, with his wife, has spent the summer in Pleasant Hill.



WENDELL E. HINES

## Brookmeade Church Calls New Pastor

The Reverend Wendell E. Hines began his ministry at the Brookmeade United Church, Nashville, Tennessee, on the first Sunday in September.

The Rev. Mr. Hines succeeds the Rev. Clyde C. Flannery, who now is on the staff of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The new Brookmeade minister has been pastor of the First Congregational Church of Texarkana, Ark., for the past four years. He has also served the Muscle Shoals United Presbyterian Church, Rogersville, Ala., and the United Presbyterian churches of Huntsville and Hindsville, Ark.

Mr. Hines was born in Oklahoma and served in the U. S. Navy from 1944 to 1946. He graduated from Louisiana State University and received his theological education at Yale University Divinity School, graduating in 1955.

Mrs. Hines, the former Betty Brent, of Greenville, Mississippi, also attended Louisiana State University.

Mr. and Mrs. Hines have five children, four boys and one girl. The boys are: Ashley 13, Randy 7, Gary 5, and Kenneth 3½. The daughter, Alison, is 11.

The Brookmeade Church was organized in 1953. At present it receives financial aid from the United Board for Homeland Ministries and the Southeast Convention. One of the challenges faced by Mr. Hines is to lead the church to self-support.

## Share Our Substance Offerings Are Urged

Lives are saved, bodies are strengthened, and millions of desperately needy are given new hope for the future through the SOS (Share Our Substance) Program of our churches with its overseas distribution of food from America's agricultural abundance.

Hunger, ancient enemy, still stalks mankind in the wake of disasters both natural and man-made — a hurricane in Haiti, floods in India and Ghana, an earthquake in Skopje, Yugoslavia, war in Algeria, a riot in Calcutta. Our churches counter the blows of this enemy by rushing food to regions of disaster.

Hunger casts its shadow on developing countries and resettlement areas, threatening with malnutrition the courageous efforts of the deprived and dispossessed to help themselves. Our churches aid them in their long and painful struggle toward self-sufficiency through food-for-work projects — land reclamation in Korea, reforestation in Algeria, irrigation in Greece, and other self-help projects.

Hunger's threat of thwarting youth of its proper growth and development through malnutrition is answered by our churches with school lunch and milk distribution programs — in Chile, Jamaica, Hong Kong, Okinawa, Greece, Algeria, the Congo and many other areas. Others highly vulnerable — the ill and aged — are protected from hunger's ravages by institutional food distribution.

In 1963 the Share Our Substance Program distributed a total of 422,316,-543 pounds of Government donated and other foods to the needy overseas. Carried on in 35 areas of acute human need, the program was made possible by our churches working together through Church World Service.

Total cost of the churches was \$890,-208.79. This represents more than 300 pounds of food per dollar of expense from Church World Service resources, or more than \$26 worth of food placed in the hands of the recipient per CWS dollar.

During 1964 about 400 million pounds of free food will be distributed through the SOS Program.

The churches of the convention are urged to receive offerings for SOS. The receipts should be sent to the Southeast Convention Office, 673 Piedmont Ave., N. E., Atlanta 8, Ga.

## HERE AND THERE NEWS IN BRIEF

### BISHOP EVANGELISTA

The Very Reverend Marciano C. Evangelista, since 1960 one of the four Bishops of the United Church of the Philippines, was one of the guest speakers at the joint sessions of the Kentucky-Tennessee and Tennessee-Kentucky Conferences.

The sessions were held at the United Church, Oak Ridge Tennessee, on Saturday and Sunday, October 10-11. Bishop Evangelista addressed the conferences on Saturday night and preached at the Sunday morning services.

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### YOUTH WEEK — 1965

Youth Week is a nation-wide observance by Christian youth in the churches and communities emphasizing youth work and unity in Christ. It is a program of the denominations working together through the United Christian Youth Movement.

The theme for the 1965 observance is Songs for a Small Planet. Youth Week is January 31 - February 7.

The Complete Youth Week Packet costs \$1.35. It should be ordered from:

Office of P & D  
National Council of Churches  
637 W. 125th Street  
New York, New York 10027

Payment by check or money order should be sent with your order.

Every church in the convention is encouraged to observe Youth Week and Youth Sunday.

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### REV. AND MRS. CLYDE FLANNERY

The new address of the Flannery family is 7733 Susan Drive, South, Indianapolis, Ind. Mr. Flannery is on the staff of the Indiana-Kentucky United Church Conference.

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### HOMECOMING AT DAISY

The annual homecoming at the Daisy (Tenn.) Congregational Christian Church was held on Sunday, September 27. Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr. delivered the morning sermon.

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### DR. HENRI TANI

Dr. Henri Tani, who will be remembered by all the young people and adults who attended the annual P. F.

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EXTEND YOUR HORIZONS  
READ YOUR  
CHURCH MAGAZINES

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## Chaplain W. W. Elder Died On October 3

Retired U. S. Navy Captain (Chaplain) William W. Elder, who served as a chaplain in the United States Navy for 31 years, died at his home in Concord, Ga., on Saturday, October 3.

Chaplain Elder, who retired in 1946 as the Navy's fourth ranking chaplain, served on the USS Arizona and the USS Texas. He also served as chaplain of the Pensacola Naval Base and in 1941 as chaplain of the Atlantic Fleet.

Chaplain Elder was a graduate of Elon College and received his M. A. degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

He is a descendant of the Elder family whose name figures so prominently in the history of the Christian Churches of this area.

Following his retirement from the Navy he accepted the call to serve the Congregational Christian Church in Lanett, Alabama. Later, wishing to lighten his activities but to continue to serve, he became pastor of the Jones Chapel Church, Woodbury, Ga. He retired from this position two years ago.

During the years of his service in the churches of this area Chaplain Elder gave leadership in association and convention affairs.

He is survived by his wife, the former Julia Oxford; a daughter, Mrs. O. L. Follin of Dunedin, Florida; a son, James W. Elder of Washington, D. C.; a sister, Mrs. Susie Walker of San Francisco, California; and three brothers, J. B. and H. S. Elder, both of Phenix City, Alabama, and Whit Elder of Flint, Michigan.

Military funeral services were conducted at Griffin, Ga., Monday, October 5, by Chaplain Robert Osman, with a complement of 24 military personnel from the Naval Air Station, Marietta, Ga. Interment was in the Old Hebron Cemetery, Concord, Ga.

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Convention meeting this spring, has resigned as secretary for Youth Program for the Board for Homeland Ministries to become director of Christian Education for the new Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ.

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RESOURCES FOR LEADERS  
IN ADULT EDUCATION

A leaflet giving a list of resources is available from the convention office. Write for a copy.

## THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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### STAFF

Rev. Jas. H. Lightbourne, Jr. Editor

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### Superintendent's Corner

During the past few weeks many people have asked me about a newspaper article and news broadcast which indicated that the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ had taken a partisan political stand in favor of President Lyndon B. Johnson and in opposition to Senator Barry Goldwater.

By now all of our ministers should have received a letter from President Ben M. Herbster dated September 22 stating that the newspaper article and the radio and television newscasts were in error. Another letter dated October 7 indicates the United Press has since printed a correction in which it stated:

"UPI regrets that its dispatch did not make clear that the (Social Action) magazine was distributed to church members as a matter of information and that it was not an official announcement by the denomination."

The October issue of SOCIAL ACTION was a special elections issue and contained several articles discussing, from opposite sides, the issues and candidates in the presidential campaign.

Since I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Council for Christian Social Action, and have been since 1956, I knew the report was in error when it first came to my attention. The CCSA does not deal in partisan politics, does not endorse candidates, and does not presume to speak for the members and churches of the denomination.

From time to time mistakes like this will occur, but we should not let them shake our confidence in the freedom of the press and the responsibility of our church agencies.

## Lord, When Did We See You?

### 1964 Christian Enlistment Theme

Lord, when did we see you? This familiar quotation from Matthew 25:35 is the theme of the 1964 Christian Enlistment and is used on many of the materials now available for use this fall.

The theme is primarily developed in the all-new Poster and Bulletin Insert series. Six posters suggest that we serve Christ as we seek to serve the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and the imprisoned. A seventh poster summarizes this theme.

The photographs used to illustrate this series do not in every case point to a literal interpretation. Thirst, for instance, is treated as the insatiable thirst for things which characterize so much of our contemporary way of life. And sickness is illustrated by the Berlin Wall, symbol of the social sickness which divides our world east and west, north and south.

The Sunday Bulletin Insert series

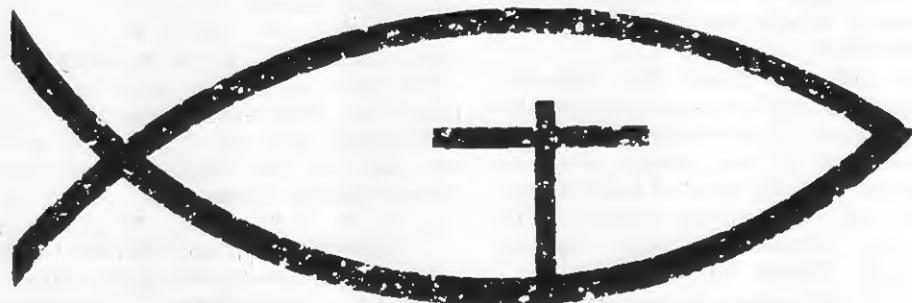
carries the same illustrations plus interpretations.

Many of our people will be delighted to learn that the Midweek Mailer series (little cartoon leaflets) has been expanded to include an additional six pieces. Over 1,200,000 of these were distributed last year to churches large and small. Samples of these and other Christian Enlistment materials are a major part of the 1964 Fall Packet.

Every pastor in the Southeast Convention should have received the 1964 Fall Packet from the Stewardship Council. The Christian Enlistment materials for use this fall are a major part of the packet.

The pastors and churches are urged to make use of these excellent materials that will strengthen the stewardship of every church if properly used. The materials are available through the Stewardship Council.

# LORD



# when did we see you ?

# The Church Builders Club Of The Southeast Convention



## Huntsville Church Is Current Project Of Club

The United Church of Huntsville, Alabama, is the current project of The Church Builders Club of the Southeast Convention.

Organized in 1960, the church had its origins in a small but interested group of people who first met with Rev. Guy L. Colbert, pastor-at-large of the North Alabama Association. Interest and support for the group also came from the St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church, Cullman, Ala.

The South Indiana Synod and the Board of National Missions of the Evangelical and Reformed Church joined with the Southeast Convention and Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches in helping the small group start a United Church congregation in Huntsville.

Ministerial leadership on an interim basis was given by Rev. Claude W. Warren, a retired minister who was tremendously interested in the project.

In January of 1961 the Rev. and Mrs. W. Raymond Berry went to Huntsville and he became the first full-time resident pastor. The church has purchased a parsonage in a residential development not far from the permanent site of the church. Mr. and Mrs. Berry and their two young children make their home there.

After holding services in a variety of places during their search for a strategic site, the group eventually was able to purchase land on the growing south side of the city. The purchase in-

cluded a farmhouse that has been renovated at minimum expense for use as the temporary church building. The dwelling, pictured above, is used for the church school and regular services.

The church continues to receive substantial financial aid from the Southeast Convention and the Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church.

The church started with 15 members. It has grown to 65 members and future growth is anticipated now that the church is located at its permanent site. When the membership is sufficiently strong to finance construction the first unit of its building program will be started.

## The Church Builders Club

The United Church of Huntsville, Ala., was designated the current project of the Southeast Convention Church Builders Club by the membership at the 1964 annual meeting of the club.

The Board of Trustees of the club has met and taken action declaring Sunday, October 25, 1964, Church Builders Club Sunday. Every church is urged to seek members in the Church Builders Club during the month of October with special emphasis on Sunday, October 25.

The Board of Trustees also took action to challenge each church to seek to reach a goal of 20% of its membership enrolled in the club.

The purpose of the club "is to bind together followers of Jesus Christ for the purpose of sharing the task of building His church within the fellowship of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches."

The plan of the club is simple. "Membership in this club is open to all who wish to promote the building of new churches and are willing to pledge themselves to contribute \$5.00 or more for each new church project approved by the governing body or membership of the club. The maximum number of projects to be approved for one calendar year shall be two (2)." Organizations in the churches as well as individuals can join.

Each church should send its list of Church Builders Club members along with a check to cover the dues to the Southeast Convention office. Checks should be to the Church Builders Club.

## Application for Membership

In

## The Church Builders Club of the Southeast Convention

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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